

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/566,105

Examiner

Eric Hug

Applicant(s)

DENHOLM, ANN

Art Unit

1791

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the interview with Applicant on January 8, 2009.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 14, 16 and 18-33.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

## Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date 01/08/2009.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_.

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Craig Hayden on January 8, 2008.

The claims have been amended as follows:

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A method of producing an immersible fire retardant paper, the method comprising the steps of:

adding a fire retardant compound to ~~a portion of~~ a resin to form a partial mixture, the fire retardant compound comprising borax and diammonium phosphate and said resin being part of a base resin bath;

maintaining the pH of said partial mixture at a prescribed level by adding a solution buffer containing sodium hydroxide to form a stabilized partial mixture;

mixing said fire retardant compound and said solution buffer with said ~~portion of the~~ resin;

adding the remaining ~~portion of the~~ resin to said stabilized partial mixture to form a fire retardant resinous compound; and

impregnating a kraft paper with said fire retardant resinous compound to produce said immersible fire retardant paper.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 14 wherein said ~~step of adding a solution buffer containing sodium hydroxide occurs simultaneous with said step of adding a fire retardant compound to a portion of a resin~~ is added to said resin during component mixing.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 16 wherein ~~simultaneous~~ addition of the solution buffer and the fire retardant compound produces a gelatinous compound.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): A method of producing an immersible fire retardant paper, the method comprising the steps of:

adding a fire retardant compound to ~~a portion of~~ a resin to form a partial mixture, the fire retardant compound comprising borax and diammonium phosphate and said resin being part of a base resin bath;

maintaining the pH of said partial mixture at a level greater than 9.0 by adding a solution buffer containing sodium hydroxide to form a stabilized partial mixture;

mixing said fire retardant compound and said solution buffer with said ~~portion of the~~ resin;

adding the remaining ~~portion of the~~ resin to said stabilized partial mixture to form a fire retardant resinous compound; and

impregnating a kraft paper with said fire retardant resinous compound to produce said immersible fire retardant paper;

wherein said ~~step of adding a solution buffer containing sodium hydroxide occurs simultaneous with said step of adding a fire retardant compound to a portion of a resin~~ is added to said resin during component mixing.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 25 wherein ~~simultaneous~~ addition of the solution buffer and the fire retardant compound produces a gelatinous compound.

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): A method of producing an immersible fire retardant paper, the method comprising the steps of:

adding a fire retardant compound to ~~a portion of~~ a resin to form a partial mixture, the fire retardant compound comprising borax and diammonium phosphate and said resin being part of a base resin bath;

maintaining the pH of said partial mixture at a level greater than 9.0 by adding a solution buffer containing sodium hydroxide to form a stabilized partial mixture;

mixing said fire retardant compound and said solution buffer with said resin;

wherein said ~~step of adding a solution buffer containing sodium hydroxide occurs simultaneous with said step of adding a fire retardant compound to a portion of a resin~~ is added to said resin during component mixing to produce a gelatinous compound;

adding the gelatinous compound to the base resin bath to form a fire retardant resinous compound;

subjecting the base resin bath to a temperature of about 140°C to about 150°C for a time sufficient to cure the resin;

~~mixing said fire retardant compound and said solution buffer with said resin;  
adding the remaining portion of the resin to said stabilized partial mixture to form a fire  
retardant resinous compound; and  
impregnating a kraft paper with said fire retardant resinous compound; and to produce  
said immersible fire retardant paper;  
subjecting the impregnated kraft paper to a temperature of about 140°C to about 150°C  
for a time sufficient to cure the resin.~~

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 14, 16, and 18-33 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The claims are allowed, because in a method of producing an immersible fire retardant paper by impregnation of a kraft paper with a fire retardant resinous compound, the prior art does not disclose or suggest adding a fire retardant compound comprising borax and diammonium phosphate to a resin, further adding a solution buffer containing sodium hydroxide to the resin, mixing the fire retardant compound and solution buffer with the resin, adding remaining resin to the mixture to form the fire retardant resinous compound, and then impregnating kraft paper with the fire retardant resinous compound.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Hug whose telephone number is (571) 272-1192.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Griffin can be reached on 571 272-1189. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Eric Hug/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1791